

Postmark
March 145

P.O. Box 223 - Man Vista - Cal

Fr. dear, just a line in haste - Had
a lovely letter from my padre day
before yesterday Rt Rev. B. Buddy will
be in Riverside on 17th Fr. Dave will
take up foundation matter with him
he is very much in favor of it & B.B.
wants it - only ^{that} the way we can
make it - However, that is all

in God's hands - I don't know whether
I can see you next week - if I can
I'll make another try at calling
you - I'm just getting over a cold
& sore throat - Now listen

well father - St. Joseph settled
the Rockford foundation on his feast
day years ago. it may be that he
will have a finger in the pudding
once again because father may not
see him ^{B.B.} till the 19th St Joseph's day.
from now on till then will you

will you beg St. Joseph to fix
this matter up - if God wishes
it to settle it on his feast-day
so my life, if nothing else will
be settled once for all - I am
afraid + what is worse I feel B.B.
will approve & say go ahead - if
he does how will I go about it? -
A dumb dunny like me trying to
organize a monastery & teach others
to love God - when all I am good
for is organizing a crowd of crazy people

Father I am really afraid now -
that it has come to a showdown
so please storm heaven &
St. Joseph our Lady & Baby Jesus
until you hear from me or
rather until this is settled +
remember I do not want the money
but I wish only to do Gods holy
will what ever that be your money
hope you are well -

present phone

St. Monica

71710

Toll Free Service to be called

J. M. J.

March 1, 1945

Dear Father,

How truly you are the father of my soul. The thousands of miles which separate us will never be able to keep apart our souls. If ever in my life I wished and desired to have your guidance, that time is now, but since God does not give you to me, I am sure it is His Holy Will that I do not have you just now. I must thank God for all that He does. But how glad He is to give me the continual support of your holy prayers for me and my dear family. I am so indebted to you, Father; God alone can pay my debts.

Before I go further — I have an opportunity to ask Reverend Mother to mail this letter, as I am taking advantage. Mother St. John does not know about it. Father, I sent you a letter in December through Reverend Mother. Did you receive it? In it I told you of Sister Mary Mediatrix's message about John. She wrote, "John is with Him, for the pure of heart see God".

What a joy to know where John
is. To me, he was always the
most lovely boy I ever knew.
How I thank you for your many
prayers for all of us on this
occasion. Truly God has made
this a year of sacrifice for me.
He took me at my word as
I knelt before Him in our lovely
chapel in Monteno on December 31,
1943. I wrote you all this before I
left Monteno in August. But how
happy I should be to know that
God loves me so much that
He takes me at my very word.

I have news from you
through Sister Monica. A very
trustworthy Sister, Mother Mary Dolores
of Monteno, carried to me your
letter to her, ^(fr. Monica) with your message to
me. No one knows, not even
Reverend Mother, but I do not
think ~~that~~ that is wrong. There
was no word from Sister Monica,
only your letter. I am returning
the letter by Mother Mary Dolores as
it comes.

How I thank you again for
everything. You are so truly the

Father of my soul.

I have received the letter you sent direct. How wise you were in speaking in it as you did. I am very glad you did not allude to the letter ^I sent through Reverend Mother or Martino (Sept.). I received this letter of yours without an envelope from Mother ^{St. John} and she had read it, because she said what it was about before I could read it. All the same, I thank you with all my heart for all the letter contained. I was glad to know, too, that you had received the Mass stipends. I value very much your prayers and Masses for John.

You tell me to live my life in perfect abandonment, to strive to resemble Christ Crucified as closely as possible. My one desire is to be the kind of religious from whom God can ask whatever He wants and know that it will be given to Him at once with the greatest joy. I am much aware of all this means and the suffering it

entails, yet I cannot change my mind about any of it. And for Christ Crucified — I have always wanted to be another humanity in which Christ could continue His passion for the salvation of mankind. But my poor soul, how much it needs you now. Yet I know that if I really needed you, God would send you. As it is, God wants me to use the means He puts at my disposal.

On January 7, God put a new cross upon my shoulders. I was appointed assistant superior to Mother St. John. I think I need say no more. I know you will pray for me.

In spite of everything, I live in great peace. Nothing seems able to touch it. I think I am now experiencing the truth of the great paradox — I suffer always, yet I enjoy a wonderful peace at all times.

Another thing I am learning by real experience, is my own weakness and God's great power. Through me, He accomplishes all things. I am truly convinced that

of myself I am doing nothing,
yet I almost feel God's power
within me. Subconsciously, I am
aware of this always. Many times
I am aware of it consciously,
so that the knowledge of my own
weakness and helplessness even
seems to produce a physical
reaction so that I almost feel it.
I spend most of my meditation
in that attitude that God must
do everything for me - I need Him
so much. But I do not pray
with many words. God is so
good. Truly I know He is doing
everything for me. He has made
me very strong to meet conditions
up here and I feel that they
cannot influence me - God is
too strong within me. It is
wonderful.

I think that through real
experience I am learning the reality
of many truths which I knew only
in theory before this year.

I have not received the letter
which you wrote to me through
Reverend Mother. Perhaps she has

not had the opportunity to give it to me. I will be very glad to read your holy message to me and perhaps then I will think of many more things to tell you.

Be assured that my desires for you and your priests and seminarians are always the same. God has accepted me for all of you. May He never regret of having accepted my offering. I try to pray for you, but I cannot vouch for my poor prayers. Yet God reads all my desires.

Your most grateful child and
co-missionary,

Sister Mary Christine

P.S. Father, Please excuse the envelope and paper, but when we write under these circumstances, it is hard to find the right or proper materials.

S. M. C.

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I have not received the letter which you wrote to me through Reverend Mother. Perhaps she has

J. M. J.

O.L.A.
Manteno, Illinois
March 6, 1945

Dear Reverend Father:

I am deeply grateful for your kind letter. It is always a real joy to hear from you and especially do I feel assurance in your prayers. Were it not for the strength of others' prayers I could never have kept faithful thus far, nor do I think I could keep up the battle, for battle it is in very truth. Often, I think I can bear no more but somehow, I find myself still in the chase. Please keep up your holy prayers, and they may be my salvation yet. I cannot pray as I want, and as I desire, so in face of the inability I have determined to offer my life a living prayer - living and praying - since in that I must, and can and am living because it is His will, I offer Him that life He has given me as a prayer in union with Him in the Mass. For the present I am satisfying myself with this - striving to live wholly unto Him and as it please Him. For the rest I can only offer Him my helplessness. Somehow I think He expects no more now.

I have a confession to make - a couple weeks ago I burned all my notes - except a few messages, etc., which you had asked me to keep. I did it without a shadow of regret - I thought sure I would feel at least a little after doing it but I didn't. I hope you don't mind, but really they were no help to me, I have never felt any inclination to reread them, and I felt it was alright with God that I did it. I hope you aren't displeased, are you?

Sister Mary Mediatrix was at St. Mary's and we had a few good chuckles together. She is the same sweet one as always. She frequently spoke of you - I believe she is back in Beaverville now as she was feeling much better.

Sister Monica is giving the Passion play Passion Sunday, so a little prayer for its success please?

My purpose in writing at this time was to send some Mass stipends and as I have no more free moments now, will leave the rest until later. God love you and be merciful to me - His needy one - I remember you daily at the Memento for the living - Remember I count on your holy prayers...

Sister Mary

Thou the glory of God the Father, the
consolation of His Heart and the good
of souls —

In union with God the Son —
Under the guidance of the Holy Ghost
I, Sister St Eugene, make the vow
to constantly radiate God's Presence.

I offer myself as a victim of Love
thru the hands of my Immaculate
Mother, that I may be completely
absorbed into the Divinity, for the
sanctification of souls.

SAINT PATRICK ACADEMY
MOMENCE, ILLINOIS

Since my acts of consecration to Him for the Sisters I have not, to my knowledge, refused Him anything.

My great desire for suffering has never left me and He has given me many opportunities to satisfy this desire in my present surroundings.

I have learned to rejoice when He sees fit to press His cross a little heavier on my shoulders but I must confess that I have become more sensitive too and often find myself on the verge of tears when I see souls so capable of doing great things for God, refuse to surrender to their loving Spouse. When this happens I try to make up for His sorrow by loving and consoling Him the more. I would like to increase my acts of mortification - I know one must be prudent and I will do whatever you advise but I would like to wear a hairshirt or some other instrument of penance. I shall await your reply before taking any

further step.

Sister M. Mediatrix was in the hospital for about five weeks. She returned to Beaverville last week but is not very well. She suffers very much in Beaverville through being misunderstood. I visited with her in Kankakee a few weeks ago but could say nothing about the things I would like to talk about.

I told her I would write to you and she said to tell you that He loves you much and so does she in Him.

Before I close I want to thank you for the lovely letter you sent me last November and also the pictures you sent us at Christmas. I know our dear Lord will bless you for your thoughtfulness.

Will you please say the enclosed Masses yourself?

Always your devoted daughter
in Him,

Sister St Eugene.

I beg you to send me your blessing.

J. M. J.

SAINT PATRICK ACADEMY
MOMENCE, ILLINOIS

March 8, 1945.

My dear Spiritual Father:

I have prayed very much before attempting to write to you, and in spite of the fact that you have told me in your letters that you cannot assume the responsibility of directing me because of your many duties, I am urged to write you these few lines. I can speak to you with an open heart.

It is now almost three years since you have left us and many things have happened, but I have always tried to live up to the things you tried to teach me.

The last two years have been extremely hard for me and in many ways our dear Lord has left me very much alone but this has served to increase my love for Him and I have learned to live day by day through Faith alone, with the hope that some day,

I will be united to the object of my love.

Right now I am trying hard to become more united to my dear spouse by practicing a greater silence of the mind. As a help I make many little visits to the chapel and each time I enter my office I kneel down, kiss my crucifix and adore the Blessed Trinity in my soul. Sometimes I forget this and if I do I impose a penance on myself of three Hail Marys for the souls in Purgatory with my arms outstretched in the form of a cross.

For the last couple of weeks our dear Lord seems to be asking me to make a vow of Greater Perfection, and as I have never taken any step in the spiritual life without your advice I am going to ask you what to do. You know me better than anyone else and my confidence in you is so great that I rely entirely on your decision.

I do want to give our dear Lord everything He wishes and I have surrendered myself completely to Him and I continue to do so.

J. M. J. Fr.

Franciscan Sisters of the Sacred Heart

QUEEN OF ANGELS HOSPITAL

2301 BELLEVUE AVENUE

LOS ANGELES, CALIF.

Dear Father Aloysius,

Just a few lines to wish you all the joys and blessings of a very happy Easter - and to thank you very much for your many kindnesses to me and mine. First of all for your remembrance of me & my sisters in your good prayers - which message Mrs Nieman gave me - from the lovely visit from the students and for the subscription to the Christian Star - The latter I told the students I did not wish to accept but seeing that you still wish it otherwise shall always try to spread the splendid works of your Fathers. You do go so much out of your way to make pleasure for others and as you are such a busy priest it is appreciated so much more. Little Paulette is so happy with her necklace, and the comfort you gave Mrs Davenport & family in their bereavement is beyond description. Also my younger sister - Emma, for whom you specially prayed is also better though not entirely well, but soon will be. For

all these many kindnesses please accept my heartfelt gratitude.

A short time ago I was told of your good brother's death and am so sorry that you were so far from your home & mother, but I know our generous Sacred Heart has rewarded your great sacrifice in a fitting manner. In these terrific times it must have been a great trial for his family and your darling mother. I shall continue to remember you and all of your loved ones in my very poor humble prayers.

I had the great pleasure of meeting Father Sebastian when he was sick here. He told me of the singular grace he received in being permitted to be present when the body of Blessed Anthony Claret was exhumed. Ah! God was good to him -

As I know you are very busy shall close begging a continued remembrance in your good prayers - and again thanking you so sincerely for everything I remain In the Sacred Heart of our Divine Saviour

Yours ever grateful

Sister Mary Tina O.S.F.

J. M. J.

Reverend and Kind Father:

The last time I spoke with you I was given the impression that you think I have no confidence in you. This grieves me very much because, how could you help me along spiritually if such was the case? Be sure you have all my confidence, and I feel assured if I follow your direction all will end well with the grace of God. It's true I went to another Confessor once, but it was only to give myself a fair trial, to see if I could express myself more freely, but it was of little avail. Fear and shame comes upon me at this time and renders me incapable of expressing myself, this surely must be the devils work, but God is blessing my perseverance in presenting myself at the Confessional just the same, as I can truthfully say. I never came out without benefiting of your kindly advice and patience in dealing with me, because I am feeling more peaceful now these last few days and I see things in a different light.

Please excuse paper etc but I just had to write this, I hope I am mistaken and that you will always feel you have a true confident spiritual daughter in my person. Respectfully
Sr. St. Ann

I realize I cannot express myself
freely and this is a great obstacle for
the one who is directing such a soul,
however I never leave you without benefit-
ing of your counsels, though I know
I am not making the progress you
would like me too, yet, down in my
heart I have a great longing for God.
You know my soul has been plunged in
darkness these past months. It seems my
whole past life has been spent in vain,
and I felt so incapacitated to keep on,
instead of my striving after virtue like in
the past, my whole nature resented and
seem to revolt against spiritual life, viewing
it only as a folly, but I hope to regain
my religious spirit entirely and that I
will serve God in the best of my ability.
I am reading "Union with God" by Dom. Marmion
and I find much consolation therein -
as I have met many passages dealing with
souls groping in darkness like mine. One con-
soling thought was this "Sometime God permits
souls to go through such trials to draw them
closer to Him" could this be my case? I feel so
unworthy. Please do not be lenient with me.
I feel coward, but with the grace of God one
can do anything. Please forgive me. I cannot
on your prayers so much. I cannot pray but I offer God

I am looking forward to my day of recollection. Will I feast with my spouse as in the past or will I have to bear with a disappointment? Many God's will be done.

Outstanding
Mar 12-45

P.O. Box 223 - near Vista Calif

Dear Father,

I spoke to Velda this evening everything is O.K. - Sunday I am going over to see the picture & I'm going to start another so I can copy it exactly as she does it - I would like to have it a few days so deku can see it - and so I can touch my new one up accordingly - I don't know when she will get them - she told me to tell ^{you} not to worry about the chapel work - it's all right with her -

I thank you for your kindness of yesterday - you know you are awfully kind and patient - and awfully sweet - and very sweet I am sure to the loving heart of Jesus - It is now the first hour of the feast day of our holy mother St. Colette I am asking her to settle that foundation by St. Joseph's day - won't it be wonderful if she does? She was a lovely understanding person - did you ever read her life - she was so penitential and was tormented

so terribly by the devil — if he would only
keep in the lower regions where he belongs
years ago when I was a youngster I was over-
awed by the devils here in Riquian — the
old priest up there used to tell a certain man
that he should not work on Sunday but should
rest & spend the day in God's service. This year,
Sunday the priest begged him to come to mass
but he told the priest to go & say his mass &
he would plant his potatoes where he went
to look at his potato patch that night it was
turned to cobble stones as deep as he could
dig & it's that way since — it made me
realize the power of a priest and also
the power of God and the devil —

Couldn't finish this, Thus I am,
too sleepy, — my knee
has been doubly bad but is better tonight.
Thank God — I have had only one sharp
pain in my head

Dun. mlt - March 11.

Father, just a few lines to finish this and
to thank you for your good prayers —
I really thought I was dying when Mrs. Vauz
called you Friday — I came home from work

perfectly well ate a small breakfast washed
my hair and was about to bathe when I
lost my bearings - then I got very sick to my
stomach & decided it was something late
but I grew steadily worse - I thought of many
things I made my way across the street
about 7 that night Mrs Van G & her son-in-law
practically carried me over to the san
between 8 & 9^{pm} my body stiffened my
head jerked to the right side & as never
before rays, I don't know what else to call
them, came from some central point
my heart, I think & pressed my hands
and feet and side & the pain in my
head pained again for the first time, since
you blessed me - I just cannot describe
it but it seemed I could hear my Jesus
say that, that day I was suffering for some
special thing - I never had an experience
quite like this before - from then on I
began to get well - Mrs Sands gave me
a room at the San & I remained in bed
till this eve 6 pm then went home to change
& I am working tonight - I don't feel well, will

see Dr. next week & if an operation seems
the only way out I shall take it for better
or for worse — Fri I had Mrs Van G. call on her
& she wanted to send for me so its nice
to know that thanks to you I have a
place to go — I still feel badly — & have
fought this sickness all summer — I get
no better so do please keep on praying &
thank you so much father dear

I will let you know what Dr
says in the meantime please
keep on praying for me a
poor sinner

Your unworthy

Wm

J. M. J.

St. Patrick Academy,
Mokena, Illinois,
March 15, 1945.

Rev. Father Aloysius Ellacuria, C.M.F.,
Claretian Major Seminary,
Compton, California.

Rev. dear Father:

I received your kind letter just before Christmas and also the one you wrote recently since the beginning of Lent. Thank you very much for both of them. Your long silence had kept me wondering - I felt that perhaps you did not have time to bother with me. I would give anything right now to be able to speak to you. I cannot write my present difficulty.

During the past month or so I have been visiting our schools. I am to leave with Reverend Mother for Hot Springs to-morrow evening to be gone about ten days. My visits to our schools have taught me many lessons. Formerly I used almost to envy Mother Rose Mary because of the great good she did among the Sisters when she went for her visits. Personally at times I am completely overwhelmed with the confidence the Sisters place in me. You tell me that I need greater and greater humility. Only too well do I realize it, Father. During the past week, I have realized it more keenly than ever. I came back from my visits and seemed to find so many disorders and irregularities here that I was completely overcome. I was tired and I had many worries on hand. For three or four days, I guess I more or less "took it out" on the girls; I was cross and irritable with them; I found fault with everything they did; one evening I scolded them unmercifully and unjustly; I hurt them keenly by my words and my manner. I was miserable myself and I made them so also. You have warned me against this in the past and I have tried hard to check myself but this time, I failed completely. I realized my error and that the only way I could repair was by making a public apology to them, the entire high school group. I did so in all sincerity and was humiliated to the dust of the earth. May I ask your prayers that I may be more humble in the future?

Most of my worries are over conditions in the province. In my visits I have learned many things which under ordinary circumstances, I presume, I would be in conscience bound to reveal to Mother Provincial. Some of the most glaring ones, I have told her. I know that you are aware of many things for I know that some of the Sisters are writing to you. While I was in Chicago at St. Gall's, Father Moisant came up from Springfield to see me concerning camp arrangements for the summer. I asked his advice about one thing I had learned which I felt Mother Provincial should know. Were I to tell her, she would know without my telling her, the Sister in question. Father advised me against telling Rev. Mother. He said that she would learn eventually and that were I to tell her now, it would harm any influence I might have with the Sisters in future. I feel certain that you know the entire matter, Father; that is why I would wish to have the opportunity to speak to you. There has been quite a little unrest concerning the superiors not all, but the one in Chicago in particular. Her time is up this summer; some of the Sisters feel that it would be unfair to extend her term. Some have even gone so far as to say that if Rev. Mother and the council do not take care of the matter, they feel justified in taking matters in their own hands and present it to the ecclesiastical superior. I know that one Sister has already done so. She has asked for a visitation of St. Gall's and Manteno. Is the Sister justified in doing this? Is not this the business of the provincial? Am I bound to tell this to Rev. Mother? I know that the Sister who did this, feels she is perfectly justified in what she has done. She herself does not know that I have this knowledge; she did not tell me herself. What am I to do in this? Just leave it all to the Holy Spirit?..

Recently my faith and confidence in Frances have received a terrific shock. I find myself questioning. You know how strong and firm have been my faith and belief in her.

Something may come up to the council in regard to her. I am quite well aware of the attitude of all the council members regarding her. It might so happen that my vote would be a deciding factor. Father, what am I to do? I know how perfectly you have known Frances and I value your opinion; please tell me my duty in this. I am praying and praying much that I may act only under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. I would not want to be prejudiced in any way or in any way influenced by anyone who might be against her.

May I also ask you another question? It is in regard to Sister Monica? I am not aware of the special graces she has received but I am not unaware that she has received some. Is God just permitting that her superior and her provincial do not understand her? Is He hiding special graces under an apparently indifferent exterior? Is she mentally unbalanced or is she the recipient of God's special favors? Personally Sister and I have always been very good friends; we were in the novitiate together and both of us underwent many of the same difficulties and trials. Some of the things she does are not approved of either by her superior or her provincial. I find myself questioning in regard to her also.

It looks as though my entire letter is about others rather than myself. I mention these things only to obtain your advice as to how I should react toward them. My responsibility in the council weighs heavily upon me. I only wish that Mother Rose Mary would be in a position to resume her position in the council. Am I taking things too seriously? Am I again lacking confidence? Why must so many of these things be brought to me? Have I a definite duty in regard to them?

At the beginning of Lent, Rev. Mother suggested the following as our Lenten program: Fervor - sacrifice - and charity. I have tried to combine this with my usual practice of adoration. Were I to grade myself upon the observance of all of them, I fear it would be rather low. I can say truthfully however that I have tried and that I am trying. The results are not what I would wish.

Constant activity and the innumerable details which have to be taken care of seem to encroach themselves in everything. Since all of these seem to be placed by obedience, surely they are not contrary to His Will. The lack of subjects and the illness of many others, keeps each house short of help and naturally all those who are able are obliged to take on extra duties.

I am enclosing a copy of the outline of the retreat which Father Hoeger gave in January. I did not follow the retreat but I have made others with Father Hoeger. I believe that I gave you my copy of the notes of his retreat. His retreat notes are to be published in the spring by Pustet and Co. under the title: "The Tryst with the Blessed Trinity." I believe that the book will be very good. I shall be happy, Father, to continue sending you the notes of retreats, etc. This is a slight return I can make to you for all your kindness to me. I am enclosing some Mass stipends which I would appreciate your taking care of. May I ask you to kindly offer a Mass in honor of Our Mother of Sorrows on Passion Friday for my intentions? I ask your prayers for Mother St. Eugene, also; she is suffering much at present. I hope that you will write to her.

You are remembered constantly in my prayers, Father. May our dear Lord continue to bless you in all your undertakings. Begging your blessing and your prayers, I remain

Gratefully in Him

Sister Mary Dolores